



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 23, 2022**

**HB 5037, An Act Adjusting The State Budget For The
Biennium Ending June 30, 2023**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 5037, An Act Adjusting The State Budget For The Biennium Ending June 30, 2023.**

First, and importantly, CHA wishes to acknowledge and thank the Governor for proposing a budget that continues to reflect the 2019 hospital agreement, including hospital supplemental payments, and the hospital tax rate. CHA also thanks the members of the Appropriations Committee, as well as all legislators, for their support of the hospital agreement.

Since early 2020, hospitals and health systems have been at the center of Connecticut's response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, acting as a vital partner with the state and our communities. Hospitals expanded critical care capacity, procured essential equipment and supplies, and stood up countless community COVID-19 testing locations. Hospitals have been an essential component of the statewide vaccine distribution plan including efforts to reach and serve historically under-resourced communities disproportionately affected by the virus. Through it all, hospitals and health systems have continued to provide high-quality care for everyone, regardless of ability to pay. This tireless commitment to the COVID-19 response confirms the value of strong hospitals in Connecticut's public health infrastructure and the well-being of our communities and reinforces the need for a strong partnership between the state and hospitals.

The Governor's budget makes significant investments in community violence prevention, workforce and healthcare. CHA applauds many provisions in the Governor's budget.

CHA supports the landmark funding of statewide community violence prevention programs.

CHA supports the following workforce provisions:

- Additional funding to CareerConneCT
- Additional funding to increase faculty capacity in nursing and behavioral health programs

- Additional funding for financial aid for students pursuing degrees in nursing or behavioral health professions
- Student loan repayment for certain healthcare providers

CHA also supports the following healthcare-related provisions:

- Funding to support storage and maintenance costs associated with COVID-19 supplies
- Additional Office of Health Strategy (OHS) staff
- Increase in adult dental and endodontic rates
- Increase in family planning clinic rates
- Funding to support individuals on the autism waiver waitlist

Thank you for your consideration of our position. For additional information, contact CHA Government Relations at (203) 294-7310.